

Applicant: TIMOTHY E. BRAHIER ET AL.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A combination device for printing information on each bag of a continuous strip of bags and positioning the bag for loading with a product, the device comprising:

a support frame including a feed assembly for feeding the continuous strip of bags;

a printer assembly positioned on the support frame to draw the continuous strip of bags into the printer assembly from a bag supply, the printer assembly including a print head operable to print selected information on each individual bag as the bag moves through the printer assembly; and

a loading assembly positioned on the support frame to draw the continuous strip of bags from the printer assembly, the loading assembly being operable to open each individual bag of the continuous strip to allow loading of the product into the bag; wherein the loading assembly is positioned adjacent to the printer assembly such that the loading assembly opens the individual bag for loading immediately after the bag has been

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printed by the printer assembly such that no printed bags are positioned between the bag being loaded and the printer assembly.

12. (New) The combination device of claim 11 wherein the printer assembly includes a drive roller operable to draw the continuous strip of bags into the printer assembly from the bag supply; and

wherein the loading assembly includes a drive roller and a pinch roller that receive the continuous strip of bags such that the drive roller is operable to draw the continuous strip of bags into the loading assembly from the printer assembly;

wherein the drive roller of the loading assembly is independently operated from the drive roller of the printer assembly.

13. (New) The combination device of claim 12 wherein the printer assembly is movable relative to the loading assembly such that the distance between the printing head and the loading assembly can be adjusted to compensate for the length of the individual bags of the continuous strip of bags.

14. (New) The combination device of claim 11 wherein the printer assembly is pivotally mounted to a support rod.

15. (New) The combination device of claim 14 wherein the printer assembly is laterally movable along the support rod relative to the continuous strip of bags moving through the printer assembly.

16. (New) A method of printing information on individual bags of a continuous strip of bags and loading a product into each bag, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a printer assembly to receive the continuous strip of bags, the printer assembly being operable to draw the continuous strip of bags from a supply;

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printing information on each individual bag of the continuous strip;

drawing each bag of the continuous strip of bags into a loading assembly after the bag has been printed; and

opening the bag in the loading assembly for loading with a product before another bag is printed, such that no printed bags are positioned between the printer assembly and the loading assembly.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of adjusting the distance between the printer assembly and the loading assembly based upon the length of each individual bag.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of adjusting the distance includes moving the printer assembly relative to the loading assembly.

19. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein both the printer assembly and the loading assembly include drive rollers, wherein the drive roller of the printer assembly is independently operable from the drive roller of the loading assembly.

20. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of printing information on each individual bag includes the step of selecting specific information to be printed on each individual bag.